

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for manufacturing a steel strip with low aluminum content, comprising:

hot-rolling a steel strip comprising between 0.050 and 0.080% by weight of carbon, between 0.25 and 0.40% by weight of manganese, less than 0.020% by weight of aluminum, and between 0.010 and 0.014% by weight of nitrogen, the remainder being iron and inevitable trace impurities, to form a strip;

subjecting said strip to a first cold-rolling, to produce a cold-rolled strip;

annealing said cold-rolled strip, to form an annealed cold-rolled strip; and

subjecting said annealed cold-rolled strip to a secondary cold-rolling [[:]],

wherein said annealing is a continuous annealing comprising:

raising the temperature of the strip to a temperature higher than the temperature of onset of pearlitic transformation Ac_1 ,

holding the strip above this temperature for a duration of longer than 10 seconds,

rapidly cooling the strip to a temperature below 100°C at a cooling rate in excess of 100°C per second,

then performing a plastic deformation operation comprising an elongation of the strip with a percentage elongation ranging between 1 and 5%,

then thermally treating the strip at a low temperature ranging between 100°C and 300°C for a duration in excess of 10 seconds, and

cooling the strip to room temperature.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the strip is maintained during said annealing at a temperature between said A_c and 800°C for a duration ranging from 10 seconds to 2 minutes.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said rapidly cooling is carried out at a rate between 100°C and 500°C per second.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said thermal treatment comprises maintaining the strip at low temperature ranging between 100°C and 300°C for a duration ranging between 10 seconds and 2 minutes.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 2, wherein said plastic deformation operation by elongation of the strip comprises planishing under traction.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 2, wherein said plastic deformation operation by elongation of the strip comprises rolling.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A process of manufacturing a container comprising forming the container comprising the steel strip produced by the process according to claim 1.

Claims 9-18 (Canceled)